

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
May 17, 1937.

To the Forty-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas:

I am today disapproving and vetoing House Bill No. 277 appropriating \$8,000 for relief for the Old Glory Rural High Common School District No. 4 of Stonewall County in replacing buildings and equipment destroyed by a disastrous fire on December 13, 1936.

The objectives for this appropriation are highly commendable but I regret I cannot see fit to approve the Bill. We simply are not able to do it.

It is my understanding that probably 25 or 30 other bills have been introduced, or will be introduced, for similar relief if this one is approved. The Treasury will not stand it. I think it is wrong in principle for the State to underwrite such losses as this. Each time we violate a principle we find ourselves obliged by the precedent to repeat it an hundredfold.

Upon investigation I find that this school district has insurance for \$15,000. This was the maximum insurance for which the bank in that community would lend money so that the school district could protect itself. As I understand it, the plan of the district is to secure aid from the Federal Government supplementing the \$15,000 insurance and \$8,000 it has hoped to secure from the State. It has been represented to me that without this \$8,000 they will be unable to get help from the Federal Government. I regret it if this is true.

But if the State is to thus encourage a lack of adequate insurance by school districts, we will be called upon time and time again in the future to make similar appropriations.

I need not remind you of the large deficit in the Treasury, of the emergency appropriations totaling over three and a half million dollars and of the fact that the general appropriations are being upped in both houses over the last biennium; and of the fact that as yet not a single dime of revenue has been provided to meet the deficit and additional expenses.

to say nothing of the other ventures we are taking in the field of social security.

For the reasons stated, the Bill is respectfully disapproved and vetoed, and returned to the House of Representatives in which it originated.

Respectfully submitted

JAMES V. ALLRED

Governor of Texas